



MINUTES HORSERACING BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 21, 2011
LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE ROOM 319
301 N ROBERTS, HELENA, MT

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cliff Larsen, Senator – Missoula MT
Christian Mackay, Montana Department of Livestock
Dore Schwinden, Montana Department of Commerce

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Feth, Montana Department of Livestock

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Sherry Meador, MBOHR
Bob Mehloff, Representative – Great Falls, MT

1:30 PM MONDAY CALL TO ORDER:

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Council members reviewed the Executive Order. As no chair was named in the order, one must be selected.

Director Schwinden nominated Christian Mackay as chair. There were no other nominations, Christian Mackay named chair by acclamation.

SCOPE OF WORK

Cliff Larsen noted four areas of importance.

- Financial accountability. Need for accurate and timely budgeting and accounting information.
- Consider how to help the BOHR achieve their goals through suggesting people to the Governor to fill positions that will be coming vacant.
- Examine revenues – current revenue streams and other possible sources.
- Work to achieve a five track circuit.

Schwinden noted that he would put a lower priority on finding people to be appointed.

REVIEW BOHR FINANCIALS

Larsen asked for:

- the cash position of the BOHR
- balance of loans to DOA and MDOL and the plan for payback
- current receivables
- current payables.

Mackay noted that DOL staff keeps these numbers very current; that they would be easily generated.

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Sherry Meador was recognized and discussed that the BOHR subcommittee, in developing their plan, took into account repayment of these amounts.

Mackay asked if, prior to 2005, did the tracks pick up most of their own expenses, especially insurance and purse money. If so, could they be encouraged to pick up more of the tab?

Representative Mehloff was recognized and discussed the situation in Great Falls. Great Falls would need financial help from the BOHR in order to run this year. If not, it would be the second year in a row that there would be no horseracing and that may be difficult to come back from.

Larsen noted that he had received comments from the industry that the BOHR executive director is slow in returning calls. Some OTB outlets were not notified when their signal was going down.

Financial information was provided by Wendy Feth. Was reviewed by the Council.

Larsen asked the question – would the BOHR be able to pay off its debt and generate another \$212K in income before June 30? Discussion with Meador and Mackay. Last year, the biggest races were in the spring, early summer with the Kentucky Derby being the biggest. Last year the BOHR generated over \$800K in revenue. Feth mentioned that she is working on a revenue analysis by date to show revenue and expenses over time.

TIMELINE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOHR

Mackay will provide draft minutes to the council members on Tuesday, November 22. He will call members individually on November 23 to get revisions and discuss agenda items. Council will meet again on Monday November 28th at 1:30. Ryan Sherman and Mike Tatsey will be invited. We will ask for time on the BOHR agenda on December 2.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No further public comment

SET NEXT MEETING

Council will meet again on Monday November 28th at 1:30.

MEETING ADJOURNED